

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 6
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
August 27, 2013

Fisheries under consideration:	Non-Indian mainstem commercial salmon Buoy 10 Recreational fishery - update
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Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Fall Factsheet #1, dated July 25, 2013

Stock Status

- Fall Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam during August 1-26 totals 83,931 adults. Adult Tules represent 7.5% of passage through August 24. Counts remain strong, and passage is tracking ahead of expectations. Chinook passage is typically 50% complete by September 7.
- Steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam during July 1 and August 26 totals 164,863 fish. Counts have been less than expected based on the preseason forecast. Passage is typically 50% complete for Group A stock by August 7 and by September 11 for Group B stocks.
- TAC met on August 26 to review the upriver summer steelhead return to Bonneville Dam. TAC revised the in-season run size for the Group A component from 212,000 to 199,000 fish (88,000 wild). TAC will continue to meet weekly to review salmonid stock status throughout the fall season.

Early Fall Non-Indian Commercial Fishery

- The preseason catch expectation for early fall fisheries was 38,800 adult Chinook, with 13,500 Chinook set aside for harvest through August 23, and the balance (25,300 fish) set aside for the last week of August. A total of 700 white sturgeon were allocated to the August portion and 300 white sturgeon were allocated to the late fall portion of the fall fishing season.
- Seven fishing periods occurred through August 26 with landings totaling 32,345 Chinook.
- CWT data is complete through August 23. Stock composition of the Chinook catch is similar to expectations (7%) for LRH stock and the URB stock is tracking slightly ahead of expectations (64%).

expectations (64%).	2013 Non-Indian Commercial Early Fall Harvest Data						
	Date	Hours	Zones	Del.	Chinook	Coho	Sturgeon
• Based on actual catch, an estimated 6,435 Chinook and 85 sturgeon remain available for harvest during August commercial fisheries.	August 11-12	9	4-5	67	1,037	4	129
	August 13-14	9	4-5	75	3,180	5	48
	August 15-16	9	4-5	85	1,436	5	45
	August 18-19	9	4-5	124	4,150	7	135
	August 20-21	9	4-5	115	5,806	44	66
	August 22-23	9	4-5	118	7,067	102	65
	Week 33- 34 total				22,676	167	488
	August 25	9	4-5	125	9,669	93	127
	Grand Total				32,345	260	615

<i>Recommendation: 2013 Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Early Fall Fishery</i>		
Season:	9 PM Wednesday August 28 to 2 AM Thursday August 29 (5 hours)	
Area:	Zones 4-5. The deadline at the lower end of Zone 4 is defined as a straight line projected from the Warrior Rock Lighthouse on the Oregon shore easterly through the green navigation Buoy #1 and continuing to the Washington shore.	
Sanctuaries:	Washougal and Sandy Rivers	
Gear:	Drift gillnets only. 9" minimum mesh size restriction. Multiple net rule NOT in effect, which means nets not authorized for this fishery may not be onboard. Lighted buoys required.	
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and white sturgeon. A maximum of 4 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) in the remaining openers. The white sturgeon possession and sales limit includes mainstem fisheries only.	
Miscellaneous:	During August 1-31, sturgeon possession is prohibited while fishing gear is deployed in the portion of commercial Zone 5 that is upstream of Skamania Island (Navigation Marker 82 on the Oregon shore, westerly to the boundary marker on the Washington shore upstream of Fir Point). Only vessels in transit through the area may have sturgeon onboard.	
Additional Rules:	<u>24-hour quick reporting</u> required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-69-240	

- Catch estimates include about 6,500 Chinook and 65 sturgeon.
- Late August is very volatile as Chinook abundance is rapidly increasing. This volatility makes estimating catch difficult. If actual catch is greater than expected, Chinook set aside for harvest in September will be used to cover the difference.
- Consistent with preseason planning, late fall commercial mainstem fisheries are scheduled to begin around September 15.

Buoy 10 Recreational Fishery

- The Buoy 10 fishery opened August 1 with a daily bag limit of two fish/one Chinook. Currently the fishery is open for hatchery Chinook retention through Sunday, September 1. Chinook retention is scheduled to re-open October 1 through December 31. The fishery remains open for hatchery coho and hatchery steelhead for the entire season.
- High catch rates early-on in the season resulted in Chinook catch accumulating at a higher rate than normal. In an effort to meet the fishery objective of allowing Chinook retention through September 1, the Joint States met on August 20 and adopted mark-selective rules for Chinook effective Friday August 23.
- The Chinook catch through Thursday August 22 includes 16,252 Chinook. Catch for August 23-25 was good with 6,824 Chinook handled, with 2,892 Chinook kept. Total Buoy 10 harvest (including release mortalities) is 19,891 Chinook. Catch projections for August 26 – September 1 total around 5,341 Chinook. This brings the season total catch projection to 25,232 Chinook (including release mortalities).

- Coho catch rates have been improving since last week. Catch through August 25 is estimated at 4,048 fish (including release mortalities). This represents 31% of the 13,100 coho set aside for Buoy 10.
- At this time staff projects the Buoy 10 fishery can continue under regulations currently in place and remain within ESA guidelines set forth for this fishery. Chinook retention under mark-selective regulations will remain in place through September 1, and re-open as scheduled on October 1 (non mark-selective)

Future Meetings

- The Joint staff recommends a hearing via teleconference for 1:00 p.m. Thursday September 5 to review treaty Indian fisheries and provide an update on non-Indian fisheries.